DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 392 346 HE 028 944

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TITLE Credit Hours to Degree: Comparative Data for

Baccalaureate Degree Programs at Public Colleges and

Universities in South Carolina. Academic Years

1995-96 and 1985-86.

INSTITUTION South Carolina Commission on Higher Education,

Columbia.

PUB DATE Feb 96 NOTE 50p.

PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110) -- Reports -

Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Bachelors Degrees; *College Credits; College

Programs; Comparative Analysis; Cost Effectiveness; *Degree Requirements; Educational Trends; Enrollment; Financial Support; Government School Relationship; Higher Education; *Public Colleges; State Aid; *State

Colleges; Tuition

IDENTIFIERS *South Carolina

ABSTRACT

Prompted by state legislative action seeking to address the possibility of a tuition surcharge on students who take more than 140 credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree, this study analyzed the number of semester credit hours required for graduation from baccalaureate degree programs at South Carolina's public colleges and universities. All data for individual institutional tables were drawn from institutional catalogs for academic years 1995-96 and 1985-86. For systemwide tables the total number of credit hours for all 4-year programs offered in both years were calculated and the sum divided by the total number of 4-year programs. The analysis found that the average number of semester credit hours required for graduation from a 4-year, baccalaureate program at a public institution had increased from a system wide average of 125.8 credits in 1985-86 to 127.9 credits in 1995-96. However, only increases at two institutions were statistically significant. Out of over 400 programs, only 30 exceeded 140 credit hours and 6 of these were first professional or 5-year programs. The study concluded that a tuition surcharge would probably affect a relatively small number of programs but would send an important message to students and institutions that credit hour totals must be carefully and continuously scrutinized. Tables of data for individual institutions and the overall system are appended. (JB)

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CREDIT HOURS TO DEGREE:

Comparative Data for Baccalaureate Degree Programs at Public Colleges and Universities in South Carolina

Academic Years 1995-96 and 1985-86

Prepared by David R. Loope Division of Academic Affairs South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

February 1996

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SUMMARY OF DATA



Introduction

Prompted by South Carolina House of Representatives Bill 3947, first proposed in April 1995, this study provides a descriptive analysis of the number of semester credit hours required for graduation from baccalaureate degree programs at South Carolina's public colleges and universities. HR 3947 would append a "twenty-five percent tuition surcharge on students who take more than one hundred forty credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree in a four-year program" at a state institution. Clearly, this legislation seeks to address two issues linked to the cost effectiveness of enrollment-based funding: 1) students who bounce from major to major without a clear-degree path and 2) institutional programs that require students to enroll in an excess of 140 credits to obtain a four-year degree. This paper studies the second issue.

The attached tables and accompanying narrative detail which programs at which institutions require an excess of 140 credit hours. Moreover, the report uses comparative data from ten years ago (academic year 1985-86) as a means of revealing how many more credits our academic programs require than they did a decade ago. As a contextual base from which to read the results of this study, we have included the results of a national survey of other states' approaches to increases in credit hours required for graduation.

Information from Other States

South Carolina is not alone in seeking to address the proliferation of credits to degree at its public colleges and universities. An electronic mail survey of statewide higher education boards and systems throughout the United States conducted by Commission staff reveals that a number of other states have already taken steps to decrease the number of credit hours to degree in their baccalaureate degree programs or are currently in the process of doing so. The instruments and approaches used by different states are varied but fall roughly into two categories: a strong centralized response often involving surcharges or a more decentralized approach allowing for institutional self-study.



Close to home, North Carolina has instituted a tuition surcharge similar to that proposed last year in South Carolina. As proposed in HR 3947 here in the Palmetto State, North Carolina is now assessing a 25 percent surcharge to all undergraduates who enroll in an excess of 140 semester credit hours or 110 percent of the credits required for a baccalaureate degree in the case of five-year degrees. Similarly, the Florida Board of Regents voted recently to assess a 25 percent surcharge on all students who take over 138 credit hours in a four-year baccalaureate program. The Montana University System has set a limit of 170 semester credit hours for state subsidized tuition. Above this level, students must pay the full cost of their education, although the state does exempt students in five-year programs from meeting this benchmark. According to University System staff, the Board of Regents is currently considering a proposal to reduce the 170 semester credit hour limit to 144 semester credit The Arizona Board of Regents has taken an even stronger stance than that taken by North hours. Carolina, Florida, or Montana. Beginning in Fall 1996, nearly all bachelor's degree programs in the Regents' system must set 120 credit hours as the standard graduation requirement. The Regents also approved an exception for engineering, secondary education, and fine arts programs, which must now require between 125 and 138 credit hours for graduation.

Other state systems have taken a more laissez-faire approach to reducing credit hours to degree. The University of Wisconsin System recently approved an initiative requiring its institutions to decrease the number of credits required for graduation. Notably, though, the System allows each individual institution to determine the amount of the reduction and the best measures for achieving this goal. To provide a measure of oversight, the System's Board must approve each institution's goal and the initiatives proposed for meeting it. According to a recent report on the plan written by UW System staff, the University hopes to strengthen advising to prevent students from taking unnecessary credits and to promote the guarantee of transfer credit so as to prevent loss of credit by students who switch institutions within the System. System staff believe, too, that adding a surcharge to students'



tuition would be expensive to monitor and that administrative costs associated with tracking students are too high to make the plan cost effective.

As still another approach, the State College and University Systems of West Virginia, prompted by state legislation, have each adopted an initiative requiring institutions to offer courses in such a fashion as to allow for timely graduation. At this time, each institutional board is currently considering the capping of baccalaureate degree programs at 120 semester credit hours, and one institution, Marshall University, is already on track to adopt a 120 credit hour standard for all its four-year degree programs.

Methodology

Individual Institutional Tables

Commission staff drew all data pertaining to academic programs included in this study from institutional catalogs for academic years 1995-96 and 1985-86. All credit hour totals are in semester hours and each table notes those programs constructed as five-year baccalaureate programs; all other programs are four-year baccalaureate programs. We have considered double majors as four-year programs unless specifically designated otherwise.

Within each institutional table, staff have included the credit hour totals required for graduation for all baccalaureate programs offered during the 1995-96 academic year. However, to ensure the validity of the data presented, staff calculated the difference between credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86 using only programs offered in both academic years. Other academic programs offered in 1985-86 and subsequently discontinued were excluded. Also, in calculating the credit hour difference between the two years, staff used only the lowest credit hour totals for those programs with a range of credits (e.g., 124-26 credits), thus ensuring the most conservative comparison of each program.



Systemwide Tables

In calculating the average number of credit hours to degree in **Tables 1 and 2**, staff factored out all five-year programs, added the total number of credit hours for all four-year programs, and divided the sum by the total number of four-year programs. Since this data was drawn directly from individual institutional tables, staff compared only those programs offered in both 1995-96 and 1985-86. Please note that the percentage change between the two years relies on averaged figures.

Table 3, which lists by institution those programs requiring over 140 credit hours for graduation in the 1995-96 academic year, includes both four-year and five-year programs. Please consult the individual institutional table for comparative data on those programs offered in both 1995-96 and 1985-86.

Analysis

Overall, the number of semester credit hours required for graduation from four-year, baccalaureate programs at public institutions has increased from a systemwide average of 125.8 credits in 1985-86 to 127.9 credits in 1995-96 (see Table 1). This increase mirrors a national increase in the number of credits required for graduation. Statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Education's Clifford Adelman in his 1995 publication, The New College Course Map and Transcript Files, confirm what many academic policy-makers, legislators, and students already know--the number of credits to degree has been growing steadily larger for some time now. NCES data shows that the mean number of undergraduate credits for bachelor's degree increased from 126 credits for the high school class of 1972 to 139.4 credits for the high school class of 1982, a percent change of 9.6 percent (p.28).

Among South Carolina institutions, Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and South Carolina State University report the highest average credit hours to graduation.



Of these, Clemson's is the highest average, a figure that results from relative high credits to degree for all programs, at least in comparison to similar programs at other institutions. The College of Charleston reports the lowest credit hours to degree at 122, a number unchanged from 1985-86. USC-Aiken follows closely with a 122.7 credit hour average in 1995-96, up only slightly from 1985-86. Most of the comprehensive four-year institutions mainly require fewer credits for degree than the three doctoral granting institutions (Clemson, MUSC, and USC-Columbia), but this is not always the case. The Citadel, Coastal Carolina University, and South Carolina State stand out as examples of comprehensive institutions with credit to degree averages closer to the doctoral institutions than to other comprehensive institutions (averages of 129.1, 127.8, and 132.9 respectively).

Table 1 also provides the percent change between average credit hours to degree in 1995-96 and 1985-86. These calculations reveal a relatively small 1.7 percent increase over that decade for all institutions. However, a few institutions show more significant increases. South Carolina State University shows the largest percent increase over the decade, jumping 5.9 percent (from 125 credits to 132.9 credits). Notably, too, The Citadel increased 4.2 percent (from 123.6 credits to 129.1 credits), and this in a curriculum where a great many undergraduates strive hard to graduate in four years. Only one institution, Francis Marion, actually exhibits a decline--.02 percent--in the average number of credits to degree, but several institutions (Clemson, College of Charleston, Lander, MUSC, USC-Aiken, and Winthrop) show little or no percent change. Given the relatively high average of credits required for graduation at Clemson and MUSC, the minuscule percent change at these institutions over the last ten years indicates that the specialized professional curricula offered at these institutions may result in high credit hour totals.

The information from Table 3 and from the individual institutional tables seems to bear out this hypothesis. Those programs requiring the highest number of credit hours for graduation are generally technical professional programs, such as Architecture and Engineering at Clemson and



Physical Therapy and Radiation Therapy at MUSC. Given the explosion of knowledge in many technical, health, and scientific fields over the last decade, these numbers may represent realistic coursework requirements necessary for achieving a sufficient understanding of complex knowledge, skills, and abilities. However, many education programs also require significant numbers of credits to graduate. In all, 12 of the 30 programs in the state that require in excess of 140 semester credits for graduation are education programs. Of these, Psychology--Secondary Education at Coastal Carolina and Accounting and Related Economics and Business Education at South Carolina State require the most credits with 146.

Generally speaking, arts and sciences disciplines require the fewest credits to degree. For example, the psychology degree at Coastal Carolina requires 120 credits as do all of the arts and sciences disciplines at Francis Marion (see respective institutional tables). Moreover, at most institutions, these disciplines show little or no increase in the number of credits required for graduation. The Citadel is a notable exception in this regard with increases in all its arts and sciences programs. This results primarily from new credit hours for required health and physical education coursework; in 1985-86, students received no credit for these courses.

Conclusions

While all institutions but two have shown increases in the number of credits to degree over the last ten years, many of these increases are not statistically significant and may in fact result, at least in some cases, from the proliferation of knowledge in certain fields. Out of over 400 programs offered in both 1995-96 and 1985-86 at the state's colleges and universities, only 30 exceed 140 credit hours and six of these are first professional or five-year programs. In North Carolina, where the state legislature passed a law implementing a 140 credit or 110 percent surcharge plan effective in Fall 1994, University of North Carolina staff report that the mandate has had little effect because so few



programs require more than 140 hours. According to UNC staff, monitoring student credit totals costs more than the amount saved by the 110 percent credit limit.

Nevertheless, we can isolate two main issues related to the credits to degree data in South Carolina that may merit some additional study. First, there exists a moderate degree of disparity among the institutions on the number of credits required for graduation, especially in the arts and sciences disciplines. For example, while College of Charleston, USC-Aiken, and Francis Marion require between 120 and 122 credits for their arts and sciences disciplines, other institutions, particularly Clemson, require between 128 and 130 credits. In these cases, one can only attribute this difference to institutional prerogative, possibly related to institutional general education requirements. And, at large institutions, an additional eight to ten credit hours for each degree multiplied by several thousand students adds up to significant FTE reimbursement from the state.

Second, most institutions' baccalaureate degrees in education require fairly high credit hour totals for graduation, especially where <u>double majors</u> in the liberal arts and in education are required. Moreover, education programs comprise over half of the four-year programs in the state requiring 140 or more hours. While national accreditation standards may indeed elevate credit hour totals in education programs, we should still question the necessity of adding large amounts of education coursework over and above disciplinary coursework in the arts and sciences.

In the final summary, a tuition surcharge would probably affect a relatively small number of programs but would surely send an important message to students and institutions alike that credit hour totals must be carefully scrutinized on an on-going basis. Whether the same outcome could be achieved through better student advising and without a direct punitive effect on students certainly deserves additional analysis.



SYSTEMWIDE DATA TABLES



TABLE 1

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs at South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities

Institution	# of Programs Compared*	1995-96 Avg.	1985-86 Avg.	Percent Change
The Citadel	25	129.1	123.6	4.2%
Clemson	65	134.6	134.3	.02%
Coastal Carolina	26	127.8	126.0	1.4%
College of Charleston	30	122.0	122.0	0%
Francis Marion	28	123.8	124.0	02%
Lander	31	125.6	125.5	.01%
Medical University	7	133.4	132.8	.04%
South Carolina State	49	132.9	125.0	5.9%
USC -Aiken	18	122.7	122.5	.02%
USC-Columbia	54	126.2	122.6	2.8%
USC-Spartanburg	26	124.4	120.8	2.9%
Winthrop	47	125.9	125.3	.05%
Systemwide	406	127.9	125.8	1.7%

^{*}Only those four-year programs offered in both years.



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USC Spartanburg USC Columba Winthrop Medical University USC-Aiken South Carolina State The state of INSTITUTIONS Francis Marion Coastal Carolina Frans College of Charleston Clemson

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NUMBER CF CREDIT HOURS TO GRADUATION

Source Institutional Catalogs Four Year Programs Only

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TABLE 2
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

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TABLE 3

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS REQUIRING 140 OR MORE SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 1995-96

	Program	@Credits for Graduation
Clemson	*Landscape Architecture	167
	Architecture Design (BA)	146
	Chemical Engineering	145
	Architecture Design (BS)	144
	Computer Engineering	144
	Forest Products	144
	Mechanical Engineering	143
	Agricultural Engineering	143
	Teaching Area History & Geography	141
	Teaching Area Pol. Science & Econ.	141
	Teaching Area Psych. & Soc.	141
Coastal Carolina	Psychology Secondary Education	146
	Sociology Secondary Education	140
	Biology Secondary Education	140
MUSC	*Physical Therapy	193.5
	*Pharmacy	174
	Radiation Therapy	150
	Occupational Therapy	145
	Physician Assisting	142
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South Carolina State	*Elec. Eng. Tech & Physics	172
	Accounting and Related Economics	146
	Business Education	146
	Industrial Technology Education	141
i	Teaching of Chemistry	141
	Music Education	141
	Honors Biology	140
	Health Education	140
	Physical Education	140
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USC-Columbia	**Professional Accounting	156
	~ Pharmacy	149

@Lowest credit hour total in programs with credit ranges



^{*}Five-year program

^{**}Combined Baccalaureate and Master's Program

[~]Non-entry level four-year degree leading to Pharm.D.

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONAL TABLES



CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

THE CITADEL

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985-86 Credits	Difference
Civil Engineering	139	Civil Engineering	138	++
Health and Physical Ed Teaching Track	133	Physical Education——Teaching Track	125	+8
Biology	132	Biology	121	+11
Education Major Science	131	Education Major Science	128	+3
Education Major Biology	131	Education Major General Science	123	+8
Health and Phys. Ed Professional Track	131	Physical Education Non-Teaching Frack	124	+7
Computer Science	130	Computer Science	123	+7
Education Major Mathematics	130	Education Major Mathematics	124	9+
Mathematics (BS)	130	Mathematics (BS)	122	+8
Physics	130	Physics	126	+4
Chemistry (BS)	130	Chemistry (BS)	125	+ 23
Electrical Engineering	129	Electrical Engineering	131	-2
Psychology	128	Psychology	122	+8
History	128	History	122	9+
Political Science	128	Political Science	122	9+
Spanish	128	Spanish	122	9+
German	128	German	122	9+
French	128	French	122	9+
English	128	English	122	9+
Business Administration	128	Business Administration	122	9+
Business Admin Accounting Conc.	128	NA	NA	AN
Mathematics (BA)	127	Mathematics (BA)	120	+7
Education Major History	125	Education Major	122	+3
Education Major English	125	Education Major	122	+3
Chemistry (BA)	125	Chemistry (BA)	118	2+
Education Major Social Studies	125	Education Major	122	+2

Sources: The Citadel -- 1995-97; The Citadel Catalogue 1985-86

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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Dansa Protest	1995 - 96 Credits	Degree Program	1985-86 Credits	*Difference
	167	**Landscape Architecture Studies	144	+13
Architecture Design (BA)	146	Architecture Studies (BA)	146	0+
Chomical Engineering	145	Chemical Engineering	143	+2
Architecture Design (BS)	144	Architecture Studies (BS)	144	0+
Computer Engineering	144	Computer Engineering	141	+3
Forest Droducts	144	Wood Utilization	144	0+
Mechanical Engineering	143	Mechanical Engineering	138	+5
Agricultural Engineering	143	Agricultural Engineering	141	+2
Teaching Area - History & Geography	141	Teaching Area History	136	+5
Teaching Area - Pol Science & Econ.	141	Teaching Area Political Science	136	+5
Teaching Area Psych & Soc	141	Teaching Area Psychology	133	+8
Ceramic Engineering	139	Ceramic Engineering	138	++
Floctrical Engineering	139	Electrical Engineering	140	1
Teaching Area Flementary	139	Teaching Area Elementary	134	+5
Engineering Analysis	139	Engineering Analysis	138	+
Construction Science & Management	138	Building Science and Management	. 138	0+
Forest Resource Management	138	Forest Management	149	-11
Horticulture	137	Fruit & Veg., Ornamental, & Turfgrass Majors	134	+3
Nirsing	137	Nursing	134	+3
Parkaging Science	137	NA	NA	Y.
Teaching Area Mathematics (BA)	137	Teaching Area Math. Sciences (BA)	138	-
Teaching Area Mathematics (BS)	136	Teaching Area Math. Sciences (BS)	137	Ī
Plant Dathology	135-37	Economic Bio., Plant Pathology Conc.	134	++
Acquaculture, Fisheries, & Wildlife Biology	135	Economic Biology	134	+
Agricultural Mechanization & Business	135	Agricultural Mechanization and Business	136	-
Biological Sciences (BS)	135	NA	NA	NA
Computer Science (BS)	135	Computer Science	130	+2
Fine Arts	135	NA	NA	NA
Graphic Communications	135	Graphic Communications	135	0+
Health Science	135	NA	NA	Z.
Teaching Area Industrial (BS)	135	Industrial Education	135	0+
Medical Technology	135	Medical Technology	136	Ī
Parks. Recreation & Tourism Management	135	Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Management	135	0+
Teaching Area Special Education	135	NA	NA	NA V
Agronomy	13435	Agronomy	138	14
Agricultural Education (BS)	134	Agricultural Education	134	0+
Animal, Dalry, & Veterinary Science	134	Animal and Dairy Science Majors	134	0+
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Biochemistry	134	Biochemistry	134	0+
Entomology	134	Entomology Conc. in Econ. Bio. Major	134	0+
Food Science	134	Food Science	134	0+
Microbiology	134	Microbiology	134	0+
Molecular Biology	134	NA	ΑΝ	NA NA
Poultry Science	134	Poultry Science	134	0+
Teaching Area Modern Languages	134	Teaching Area Modem Languages	135	ī
Community and Rural Development	133-34	Community and Rural Development	134	-
Computer Information Systems	133	Computer Information Systems	130	+3
Environmental Geology	. 133	NA	AN	AN
Industrial Management	133	Industrial Management	132	+
Management	133	Administrative Management	127	9+
Engineering Geology	132	NA	NA A	AN
Geology (BS)	132	Geology	134	1.2
Biological Sciences (BA)	132	NA	AN	¥ V
Textile Chemistry	132	Textile Chemistry	132	0+
Textile Management	132	Textile Management	132	0+
Textile Science	132	Textile Science	132	0+
Agricultural Economics	131	Agricultural Economics and Rural Soc.	134	-3
Chemistry (BA)	130	Chemistry (BA)	130	0+
Chemistry (BS)	130	Chemistry (BS)	130	0+
Computer Science (BA)	130	Computer Science (BS)	130	0+
English	130	English	130	0+
History	130	History	130	0+
Marketing	130	NA	۷N	NA
Mathematical Sciences (BA, BS)	130	Mathematical Sciences (BS, BA)	130	0+
Modern Languages	130	Modern Languages	130	0+
Philosophy	130	NA	NA	A'N
Physics (BA)	130	Physics (BA)	129	+
Political Science	130	Political Science	130	0+
Psychology	130	Psychology	130	0+
Sociology	130	Sociology	130	0+
	130	NA	NA	NA
Teaching Area Earth Sciences	130	Teaching Area Earth Science	135	9-
Physics (BS)	129		129	0+
Teaching Area Physical Science	129	Teaching Area Physical Sciences	135	9-
Geology (BA)	128-30	Geology (BA)	128	0+
Accounting	128	Accounting	127	+1
Biophysics	128	Physics Biophysics Option (BS)	129	-
Economics	128	Economics	130	+2
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*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995–96 and 1985–86.

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32

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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985-86 Credits	*Difference
Psychology Secondary Education	146–52	Secondary Education Social Studies	138	+8
Sociology Secondary Education	140-47	Secondary Education Social Studies	138	+2
Biology Secondary Education	. 140–46	Biology Secondary Education	130-31	+10
Music Education Choral	138-55	Music Education Choral and Piano	138-50	0+
Art Studio Secondary Education	138–45	Art Education (K-12)	135	+3
Political Science Secondary Education	138-44	Secondary Education Social Studies	138	0+
Mathematics Secondary Education	136-42	Mathematics—-Secondary Education	127	6+
History Secondary Education	134-41	Secondary Education Social Studies	124	++
English Secondary Education	134–41	English Secondary Education	135	1
Physical Education	132–39	Physical Education (teacher cert.)	133	ī
Business Administration Accounting	129	Business Administration Accounting	120	6+
Elementary Education	128–37	Elementary Education	126	+2
Early Childhood Education	128-37	Early Childhood Education	126	+2
Art Studio	123	NA	NA	NA
Drama Arts	123	NA	NA	NA NA
German Secondary Education	122–28	NA	NA	NA
French Secondary Education	122–28	NA	NA	NA
Spanish Secondary Education	122–28	NA	NA	NA NA
Computer Science	122	Computer Science	120	+2
Recreation and Leisure Management	121–28	Physical Education (recreation emphasis)	127	9-
Biology	120–28	Biology	120	0+
Psychology (BS)	120	Psychology (BS)	120	0+
Psychology (BA)	120	Psychology (BA)	120	0+
Mathematics	120	Applied Mathematics	120	0+
Marine Science	120	Marine Science	120	0+
Chemistry	120	NA	NA	N A
Political Science	120	Political Science	120	0+
Business Administration Market./Golf	120	NA	NA	NA
History	120	History	120	0+
English	120	English	120	0+
Business Administration Finance	120	Business Administration – Finance	120	0+
	120	Business Administration Management	120	0+
Business Administration Marketing	120	Business Administration Marketing	120	0+
Sociology	120	NA	NA NA	NA NA
*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86	96 and 1985-86.			

Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86.

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Sources: Coastal Carolina University 1995-96 Catalog; Coastal Carolina College 1985-86 Bulletin

CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Degree Program 1	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	198586 Credits	*Difference
Art	122	Fine Arts (Studio Art)	122	0+
Art History	122	Fine Arts (Art History)	122	0+
Classical Studies'	122	Classical Studies	122	0+
Communications	122	NA	A'N	¥.
English	122	English	122	0+
History	122	History	122	0+
French	122	French	122	0+
German	122	German	122	0+
Spanish	122	Spanish	122	0+
Music	122	Fine Arts (Music)	122	0+
Philosophy	122	Philosophy	122	0+
Political Science	122	Political Science	122	0+
@Religious Studies	122	NA	. AN	NA A
Theatre	122	Fine Arts (Theatre)	122	0+
Urban Studies	122	Urban Studies	122	0+
Accounting	122	NA	Ϋ́	AN
Anthropology	122	NA	AN	NA
Biology (BS)	122	Biology (BS)	122	0+
Business Administration	122	Business Administration	122	0+
Chemistry (BS)	122	Chemistry (BS)	122	0+
Computer Science	122	Computer Science	122	0+
Economics	122	Economics	122	0+
Elementary Education	122	Elementary Education	122	0+
Special Education	122	Special Education	122	0+
Geology (BS)	122	Geology (BS)	122	0+
Mathematics	122	Mathematics	122	0+
Physical Education	122	Physical Education	122	0+
Physics (BS)	122	Physics (BS)	122	0+
Psychology	122	Psychology	122	0+
Sociology	122	Sociology	122	0+
Biology (BA)	122	Biology (BA)	122	0+
Chemistry (BA)	122	Chemistry (BA)	122	0+
Geology (BA)	122	Geology (BA)	122	0+
Physics (BA)	122	Physics (BA)	122	0+
*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86	and 1985-86			

Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86

@Not in 1995-96 Catalog but approved by CHE for implementation in Fall 1996. Sources: College of Charleston Undergraduate Bulletin 1994-95, 1995-96; College of Charleston Undergraduate Bulletin 1984-85, 1985-86

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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985 86 Credits	Difference
ounting	132	Business Administration Accounting	132	0+
Teacher Education – English	129	Teacher Education English	126	+3
Bus. Admin Computer Info. Systems	129	Bus. Admin Computer Info. Systems	129	0+
Business Administration Finance	129	Business Administration Finance	129	0+
Art Education	129	NA	Ą	AA
*Teacher Education Soc. Studies Cert.	126	*Teacher Education Soc. Studies Cert.	126	0+
Teacher Education Spanish Cert.	126	Teacher Education Spanish Cert.	126	0+
Teacher Education Mathematics Cert.	126	Teacher Education Mathematics Cert.	126	0+
Teacher Education – French Cert.	126	Teacher Education French Cert.	126	0+
Teacher Education Chemistry Cert.	126	Teacher Education Chemistry Cert.	126	0+
Teacher Education Biology Cert.	126	Teacher Education – Biology Cert.	126	0+
Elementary Education	126	Elementary Education	126	0+
Early Childhood Education	126	Early Childhood Education	126	0+
	126	Business Administration Marketing	129	-3
Business Administration Management	126	Business Administration Management	132	9-
Business Administration Business Econ.	126	Business Administration Business Econ.	126	0+
Health Physics	124	NA	NA	¥Z
Theatre Arts	120	NA	NA	¥
Spanish	120	Spanish	120	0+
Sociology	120	Sociology	120	0+
Psychology	120	Psychology	120	0+
Political Science	120	Political Science	120	0+
Physics	120	Physics	120	0+
Mathematics	120	Mathematics	120	0+
Mass Communications	120	NA	NA	¥
History	120	History	120	0+
French	120	French	120	0+
English	120	English	120	0+
Economics	120	Economics	120	0+
Computer Science	120	Computer Science	120	0+
Chemistry	120	Chemistry	120	0+
Biology	120	Biology	120	0+
Art	120	NA	NA	NA
*Requires major in economics generative history po	v political science	or sociology, departed is fourth year cooperative	or conorative degree	

*Requires major in economics, geography, history, political science, or sociology; geography degree is fourth—year cooperative degree program offered at USC—Columbia.

Sources: Francis Marion University 1995-96 Undergraduate Catalog; Francis Marion College 1985-86 Catalog.



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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

LANDER UNIVERSITY

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985-86 Credits	*Difference
Special Education	134-40	NA	NA	NA
Music Education	131–39	Music Education	132	-
Medical Technology	130	Medical Technology	128	+2
Speech & Theatre Sec. Teacher Cert.	128-34	Speech & Theatre Sec. Teacher Cert.	128	0+
Early Childhood Education	128	Early Childhood Education	124	+
Mass Com. & Theatre (Theatre)	128	NA	NA	NA
Elementary Education	.128	Elementary Education	124	+
Mass Com. & Theatre (Mass Com.)	126	NA	NA	AN
Music (BA)	125-33	NA	NA	NA
Chemistry – – Secondary Teacher Cert.	125-31	Chemistry Secondary Teacher Cert.	130	-5
Biology Secondary Teacher Cert.	125-30	Biology Secondary Teacher Cert.	126	ī
Mathematics	125	Mathematics	121-26	4-
Computer Science	125	Computer Science	124	++
	125	English	124	+
Computer Science Sec. Teacher Cert.	125	NA	NA	A'N
Political Science (BS)	125	Political Science (BS)	120-28	+5
Visual Arts	125	Visual Arts	124	+1
Mathematics Sec. Teacher Cert.	125	Mathematics Sec. Teacher Cert.	124	+
Nursing	125	Nursing	128	٤-
Exercise Studies	125	NA	NA	NA A
Physical Education	125	Physical Education	124	++
Physical Education K-12 Teacher Cert.	125	Physical Education K-12 Teacher Cert.	124	++
	125	Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)	124	+1
Political Science Sec. Teacher Cert.	125	Political Science Sec. Teacher Cert.	132	-7
Psychology	125	Psychology	124	++
	125	History Secondary Teacher Cert.	127	-2
Business Admin Management/Marketing	125	Business Admin. – – General Business	124	+
Biology	125	Biology	124	+
Chemistry	125	Chemistry	124	++
Business Administration Accounting	125	Business Administration Accounting	130	5-
Business Admin Finance/Economics	125	Business Administration Economics	124	+
Political Science (BA)	125	Political Science (BA)	120-28	+5
Health Care Management	125		NA	NA
	125	(BS, BA)	124	+1
Visual Arts K - 12 Teacher Cert.	125	Visual Arts K-12 Teacher Cert.	132	7-
History (BA)	125	History (BA)	124	+



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Lander (cont'd)

History (BS)	125	History (BS)	124	+
Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	125	Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	130	+5

*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995–96 and 1985–86.

Sources: Lander University Catalog, 1995-96; Lander College Catalog Issue for the 1985-86 Academic Year.

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A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION for Academic Years 1995-96 and 1985-86

*MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985—86 Credits	** Difference
@Physical Therapy	193.5	@Physical Therapy	159	+34.5
~ Pharmacy	174-76	~ Pharmacy	173	+
Radiation Therapy	150	Radiologic Technology	143	+7
Occupational Therapy	145	Occupational Therapy	135.5	+9.5
Physician Assisting	142	NA	NA	Ž
Cytotechnology	131	Cytotechnology	131	0+
Health Information Administration	130	Medical Record Administration	131.5	-1,5
Medical Technology	128	Medical Technology	128.5-33.5	l r
Extracorporeal Circulation Tech.	126	Extracorporeal Circulation Tech.	136	-10
Nursing	124	Nursing	124	0+
Health Sciences	120	NA	AN	AN AN

*MUSC offers only the third through fifth years of coursework for the BS; lower division coursework must be completed at another accredited institution.

**Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995 - 96 and 1985 - 86

@Five-year professional degree program in 1995-96; four-year program in 1985-86, "Five-year professional degree program.

Sources: Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina 1994-96; Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina 1984-86

CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1984–86

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSTIY

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1984-86 Credits	*Difference
**Elec. Engineering Tech. & Physics	172-80	NA	NA	NA
Accounting and Related Economics	146-50	Bus. Ed., Acctg & Related Economics Option	124-28	+22
Business Education	. 146–50	Business Education	123-34	+23
Industrial Technology Education	141-45	Industrial Arts Education	131–35	+10
Teaching of Chemistry	141-45	Teaching of Chemistry	129-30	+12
Music Education	141–43	Music Education	137	+4
Honors Biology	140-44	NA	NA	ΝΑ
Health Education	140-42	Health and Phys Ed. (Health Ed. Conc.)	125	+15
Physical Education	140-42	Health and Phys Ed. (Phys Ed Conc.)	128	+12
Honors Physics	13944	NA	AN	Y Y
Industrial Engineering Technology	139-43	Industrial Engineering Technology	131–35	+8
Electro - Mechanical Engineering Tech.	13943	Electro - Mechanical Engineering Tech.	131–35	+8
Civil Engineering Technology	139-43	Civil Engineering Technology	131–35	+8
Mechanical Engineering Technology	139-43	Mechanical Engineering Technology	131–35	+8
Electrical Engineering Technology	139-43	Electrical Engineering Technology	131–35	+8
Teaching of Mathematics	138-42	Teaching of Mathematics	126-30	+12
Teaching of Biology	138-42	Teaching of Biology	126-30	+12
Early Childhood Education	138-40	Child Dev./Early Childhood Education	127-31	+11
Industrial Education	137-42	Vocational-Industrial Education	131–35	+6
Special Education	137–39	Special Education	125–30	+12
Elementary Education	137-39	Elementary Education	125–29	+12
Drama Education	135-39	Teaching of Drama	126-30	6+
English Education	135-39	Teaching of English	12226	+13
Honors Chemistry	135-39	NA	NA	Ϋ́
Family & Consumer Science Ed.	134-38	Home Economics Education	127-30	+7
Teaching of French	134-38	Teaching of French	127-31	+7
Teaching of Social Studies	134-38	Social Studies	125-29	6+
Teaching of Art	134-38	Art Education	130-34	+4
Teaching of Spanish	134-38	Teaching of Spanish	127-30	+7
Nutrition and Food Management	134-37	Food and Nutrition	126-30	+8
Speech Pathology and Audiology	133-37	Speech Pathology and Audiology	129-33	+4
Music Orchestral Instruments	133-35	NA	NA	A'A
Computer Science	132-36	Computer Science	126-30	9+
Mathematics	132-36	Mathematics	126-30	9+
History Teaching	131-35	History – Teaching	125-29	9+
Agribusiness	130-34	Agribusiness	121-25	6+
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South Carolina State (cont.d)				
MusicPiano	130-32	NA	₹Z	AN AN
Accounting	129-33	Accounting	126-30	+3
History	129-33	History	126-30	+3
Business Economics	129-33	Economics	123-27	9+
Nursing	129-33	NA	ΑN	2.7
MusicVoice	129-31	NA	ΨZ	¥Z
Physics	128-34	Physics	121–29	+7
Biology	128-32	Biology ·	125–29	+3
Drama	128-32	Drama	124–28	+4
Chemistry	126-32	Chemistry	122–29	+4
Management	126-30	General Business Administration	123–27	+3
Political Science	126-30	Political Science	126-30	0+
Marketing	126-30	Marketing	123–27	+3
Social Work	125–29	Social Welfare	125–29	0+
Family & Consumer Science Business	124-35	General Home Economics	125-29	7
English	124-28	English	123–27	+
Psychology	123–31	Psychology	123–29	0+
Spanish	123-29	Spanish	123–27	0+
French	123-29	French	123-27	0+
Sociology	123-29	Sociology	123-27	0+
Art	123-27	NA	ΥN	Y.
Criminal Insting	700			

*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1994–95 and 1984–86. **Five—year program.
Sources: SCSU Undergraduate Catalog 1995–96; SCSC Catalog 1984–86

CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

USC-AIKEN

Degree Program	199596 Cradits	Degree Program	1985-86 Credits	*Differen
Industrial Mathematics	134-43	NA	NA	ΑN
Secondary Ed Comp. Social Studies	133	Secondary Ed Comp. Social Studies	126	+7
Secondary Education Mathematics	132-34	NA	NA	AN
Elementary Education	131	Elementary Education	126	+5
Physical Education (K-12)	131	Physical Education (K-12)	132	1-1
Secondary Education - Biology	128-29	Secondary Education Biology	126	+2
Early Childhood Education	124	Early Childhood Education	123	++
Exercise and Sports Science	123-31	NA	AN	AN
Business Administration Accounting	123	Business Administration Accounting	120	+3
Business Administration Management	120	Business Administration Management	120	0+
Nursing	120	Nursing	132	-12
Business Administration - Marketing	120	Business Administration Marketing	120	0+
English	120	English	120	0+
Biology	120	Biology	120	0+
Chemistry	120	NA	Ϋ́	AN
History	120	History	120	0+
Political Science	120	Political Science	120	0+
Sociology	120	Sociology	120	0+
Business Administration Finance	120	Business Administration Finance	120	0+
Fine Arts	120	NA	AN	AN
Mathematics/Computer Science	120	Mathematics/Computer Science	120	0+
Psychology (BA)	120	Psychology (BA)	120	0+
Psychology (BS)	120	Psychology (BS)	120	0+
# CO	200 100			

*Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86.

Sources: USC-Aiken 1995-96 Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Bulletin; USC-Aiken 1985-86 Bulletin



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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995—86 and 1985—86

USC-COLUMBIA

Degree Program 1	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985 - 86 Credits	"Difference
@Professional Accounting	156-63	@Professional Accounting	154-57	+2
*Pharmacy (BS)	149	**Pharmacy (BS)	160	+11
Music Education (BM)	138	Music with Music Education Conc. (BM)	138	0+
Art Education (BFA)	134	Art Education (BFA)	130	+
Music (BM)	132	Music (BM)	138	9-
Civil and Environmental Engineering	131	Civil Engineering	129	+2
Chemical Engineering	131	Chemical Engineering	128	+3
Computer Science (BSCS)	130	Computer Science	120	+10
Mechanical Engineering	130	Mechanical Engineering	126	++
Nursing	128-29	Nursing	122	9+
Computer Information Systems	128	NA	NA	NA
Biology	128	Biology	120	+8
Chemistry	128	Chemistry	120	+8
Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	128	Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	120	+8
Statistics	128	Statistics	120	+8
Mathematics	128	Mathematics	120	+8
Physics	128	Physics	120	0+
Physical Education (BA, BS)	127-32	Physical Education (BA,BS)	138-46	1
Hotel, Restaurant, & Tourism Admin.	127	Hotel, Restaurant, & Tourism Admin.	127	0+
Sport Administration	127	NA	¥	AN
Exercise Science	126–27	Physical Education, Exercise Science Track	138	-12
Advertising and Public Relations	126	Advertising and Public Relations	120	9+
Electronic and Print Journalism	126	Broadcasting and News/Editorial Majors	120	9+
Business Admin., Business Economics Conc	125	Business Admir, Business Economics Conc	120	+5
Business Admin., Marketing Conc.	125	Business Admin , Marketing Conc.	120	+2
Business Admin., Finance Conc.	125	Business Admin., Finance Conc.	120	+5
Business Admin., Management Conc.	125	Business Admin., Management Conc.	120	+5
Business Admin, Management Sci. Conc.	125	Business Admin, Management Sci. Conc.	120	+5
Business Admin., Insurance & Econ. Security	125	Business Admin., Insurance & Risk	120	+5
Criminal Justice	122-23		120-22	+2
Administrative Information Management	121-24	Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Management	135	0+
Fine Arts (BFA)	120-28	(BFA)	125-26	12
Retailing	120-21	Retalling	120	0+
rts	120-122	Media Arts	120-22	0+
Theatre, Speech, & Dance (Speech)	120	Theatre and Speech (BA)	120	0+
Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese	120	Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Majors	120	0+
Psychology	120	Psychology	120	0+ . ¥
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USC Columbia (cont'd)				
Theatre, Speech, & Dance (Theatre)	120	Theatre (BFA)	120	0+
Music (BA)	120	Music (BA)	120	0+
Religious Studies	120	Religious Studies	120	0+
Contemporary European Studies	120	NA	NA	AN
Philosophy	120	Philosophy	120	0+
Classical Studies	120	Classical Studies	120	0+
English Language and Literature	120	English Language and Literature	120	0+
Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)	120	Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)	120	0+
Economics (BS,BA)	. 120	Economics (BS,BA)	120	0+
Electrical and Computer Engineering	120	Electrical and Computer Engineering	128	-8
African – American Studies	120	Afro-American Studies	120	0+
Anthropology	120	Anthropology	120	0+
Arts Studio	120	Art, Studio	120-23	0+
Art History	120	Art History	12021	0+
Latin American Studies	120	Latin American Studies	120	0+
History	120	History	120	0+
French and Classics	120	French, Latin, and Greek Majors	120	0+
Geography	120	Geography	120	0+
Germanic, Slavic, & Oriental Languages	120	German, Slavic, & Oriental Majors	120	0+
International Studies	120	International Studies	120	0+
Political Science	120	Political Science	120	0+
Artium et Scientiae (Honors College)	120	Artium et Scientiae (Honors College)	120	0+

~Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86.

@Combined baccalaureate and master's program.
 *A non-entry level, four-year program with additional prerequisite coursework; can lead to the Pharm.D. degree, a six-year program.
 **A five-year program with additional prerequisite coursework; can lead to Pharm. D. degree, a six-year program.

Sources: USC-Columbia Undergraduate Studies 1995-96 Bulletin; USC Undergraduate Studies Bulletin 1985-86

CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

USC-SPARTANBURG

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	134	Nursing (BSN)	128	9+
Secondary Ed Soc. Studies/Pol.Sci.(BA)	132-34	Secondary Ed Soc. Studies/Pol.Sci.(BA)	130	+2
Secondary Ed Chemistry	130		130	0+
Secondary Ed. – – English (BA)	129-31	Secondary Ed. – English (BA)	130	ī
Secondary Ed Soc. Studies/Hist. (BA)	129-31		130	ī
Education	129-30	Elementary Education	130	ī
	129–30	Secondary Ed. – – Soc. Studies/Pol. Sci. (BS)	130	1-1
Secondary Ed. – - Biology	128	Secondary Ed Biology	130	-2
Physical Education	128	ducati	132-34	-4
Early Childhood Education	127	Early Childhood Education	131	14
Secondary Ed. – – Soc. Studies/Hist. (BS)	126-27	Secondary Ed Soc. Studies/Hist. (BS)	130	1-4
Secondary Ed. – – English (BS)	126	Secondary Ed. – – English (BS)	130	14
Secondary Ed. – – Mathematics	125-28	Secondary Ed. – – Mathematics	130	1-5
Secondary Ed. – – Spanish	123-26	1	NA	¥
Secondary Ed. – - French	123-26	NA	NA	AN AN
Chemistry	123-25	NA	NA	AN
Business Administration – Accounting	123	Business Admin Acct. Concentration	120	+3
English	120-21	English	138-46	- 18
History	120	History	120	0+
French	120	NA	NA N	AA
Spanish	120	NA	AN	Ϋ́
Mathematics	120	NA	AN	AN
Computer Science (BS)	120	Computer Science (BS)	120	0+
Computer Science (BA)	120	NA	NA	AN N
Biology	120	Biology	120	0+
Criminal Justice	120	Criminal Justice	120	0+
Ì	120	Political Science	120	0+
Business Admin. – – Economics/Finance	120	Bus. Admin. — - Econ./Finance Concentration		0+
Psychology (BS)	120	Psychology (BS)	120	0+
Psychology (BA)	120	Psychology (BA)	120	0+
Sociology	120	NA	NA	Ϋ́
Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	120	Interdisciplinary Studies (BS)	120	0+
Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)	120	Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)	120	0+
1	120	NA	AN	Y Z
Business Admin. – – Management	120	Business Admin Management Conc.	120	0+
Communication	120	NA	NA	Ž
*Retween lowest credit hour totals for 1005_06 and 1085_86	and 1985_86	Sources LISCS 1995 - 96 Catalon LISCS Catalon 1985 - 86	+~!~~. 100E 0E	



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CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A Comparison of Baccalaureate Degree Programs for Academic Years 1995–96 and 1985–86

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

Degree Program	1995-96 Credits	Degree Program	1985 - 86 Credits	*Bifference
nemistry	137	Secondary Education Chemistry	132	+5
MusicPerformance (BM)	135	MusicPerformance (BM)	137	-2
Music Education	. 135	Music Education	134	+
Art-Art Education	135	Art Art Education	132	+3
Secondary EdSoc. Studies/Sociology	134	Secondary Education Social Studies	124	+10
Secondary Education – Biology	133–37	1	124	6+
Fine Arts (BFA)	132		130	+2
Secondary Ed Soc. Studies/Pol. Sci.	128	Secondary Education Social Studies	124	+4
Elementary Education	128	_	124	+8
Home Economics Education	126-28	Home Economics Education	129–33	-3
Early Childhood Education	126	Early Childhood Education	125-28	++
Special Education	125-28	Special Ed. (Multiple emphases)	124-33	++
Business Education	125–28	Business Education (Multiple emphases)	12434	+
Physical Education	124-37	Physical Education	133-39	-11
	124-25	Computer Science	124	0+
Business Admin Marketing	124-25	Business Admin Marketing	124	0+
1	124-25	Business Admin Management	124	0+
Business Admin Health Administration	124–25		NA	NA
Business Admin. – – Finance	124-25	Business Admin. – - Finance	124	0+
Business Admin. – – Entrepreneurship	124-25	NA	NA	¥N
-Economics	124-25	Business Admin Economics	124	0+
Business Admin Computer Info. Systems	124-25	1	124	0+
Business Admin Accounting	124-25		124	0+
Theatre	124	Drama	124	0+
Speech	124	Speech	124	0+
Sociology	124	Sociology	124	0+
Social Work	124	Social Work	124	0+
Secondary Education – Theatre	124	Secondary Education – – Drama	124	0+
Secondary Education Social Studies/Hist	124	Secondary Education Social Studies	124	0+
Secondary Education Modem Languages	124	Secondary Education Spanish or French	124	0+
Secondary Education Mathematics	124	1	124	0+
Secondary Education English	124	Secondary Education English	124	0+
Science Communication	124	Science Communication	124	0+
Psychology	124	Psychology	124	+0
Political Science	124	Political Science	124	0+
Philosophy and Religion	124	Philosophy and Religion	124	0+

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Music (BA)	124	Music (BA)	124	0+
Modern Languages	124	Modern Languages	124	0+
Mathematics (BA)	124	Mathematics (BA)	124	0+
Mathematics (BS)	124	Mathematics (BS)	124	0+
Mass Communication	124	Communications	124	0+
Human Nutrition	124	Food and Nutrition	124	0+
History	124	History	124	0+
General Home Economics	124	General Home Economics	124	0+
English	124	English	124	0+
Distributive Education	124	Distributive Education	124-27	- +
Dance	124	NA	NA	NAN
Chemistry	124	Chemistry	124	-
Biology	124	Biology	124	0 +
Art (BA)	124	Art (BA)	124	0 +
Art History	124	NA	AN	NA
*Botwoon lowest prodit bour totals for 1005	00 000 100 00			547

Between lowest credit hour totals for 1995-96 and 1985-86.

Sources: Winthrop University 1995-96 Undergraduate Catalog, Winthrop College 1985-86 Catalog